switching communications network can be made available to the second subscriber to the packet-switching communications network. These service features and other features also can be administered and configured using the controller. The services and features of the packet-switching communications network continue to be made available to the second subscriber and likewise can be set and configured using the controller.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the services and features of the line-switching communications network include call pick-up, call divert, call name display, subscriber cut-in, subscriber-dependent ringing, three-way conferencing, large-scale conferencing, holding, displaying of toll information, closed user group, private number schedule, call number identification, automatic call-back when busy, automatic call-back when no reply, call barring, call waiting and/or call transfer. This ensures that important services and features can be administered and configured using the method for subscriber administration.

According to one further embodiment of the present invention, the second setting information generated using the controller includes an alias name, gatekeeper administration, call waiting and/or authorization for subscribers to carry out the configuration of their subscriber features themselves via the Internet. The controller can, thus, administer and configure important services and features of the packet-switching communications network for the second subscriber. The necessary settings for this are carried out in a gatekeeper and/or RADIUS server automatically using the setting information generated by the controller.

In one advantageous embodiment of the present invention, settings in a number of control units of the line-switching and/or of the packet-switching communications network are necessary to set a service or feature. The corresponding setting information is generated by the controller and transmitted to the respective control units. This ensures that the controller automatically carries out all the necessary settings without further user interventions. Errors owing to incorrect or contradictory settings in the control modules of the control units are thus precluded.

In another advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the subscriber signaling is carried out in accordance with an H.323/H.450 signaling protocol in the packet-switching communications network and in accordance with a DSS1 signaling protocol in the line-switching communications network. This ensures that services and features which are customary and widespread in telecommunications in line-switching and packet-switching communications networks are administered and configured using the controller. However, the method also can be used in communications networks with other signaling protocols such as the SIP signaling protocol.

According to another advantageous development, the packet-switching communications network is a data network which is based on an Internet protocol. Such a data network which is based on an Internet protocol is, for example, the Internet or a local data network (LAN). Owing to the widespread prevalence of such networks, they are also increasingly being used for telecommunications. Subscriber administration using the method is also possible without a large degree of expenditure for subscribers to these networks.

According to one advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the controller of an input unit and of an output unit can be used to input/output setting information for administering the service features and features. It is advantageous here if the controller makes available a graphic user interface for inputting and outputting data. Selection lists of the graphic user interface can be used to activate, deactivate and/or configure these services and features. The selection lists for activating, deactivating and/or configuring the services and features of a subscriber show only the services and features which can be set for the respective subscriber. This ensures that simple operation is easily possible even for operators with an average level of training and errors are avoided by automatic adaptation of the selection lists in accordance with the subscriber properties. The operators do not need to be informed as to whether the individual subscriber is a subscriber to the packet-switching communication network or a subscriber to the line-switching

communications network. As a result, operators can be trained quickly. The need to train on different, partially decentralized administration systems is dispensed with.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the controller has access to a database with subscriber information of the first and second subscribers. The controller and the database can be operated in accordance with a client-server principle. The address parameters, for example, are then stored in the database. These address parameters can be a local address code, i.e. a dialing code, a directory number, i.e. a call number, a switch address, i.e. a switching office address, and an IP alias name of the second subscriber. The access to this database, which may be, for example, a central database of the network operator or of a network element, is carried out using a standardized program interface; for example, a COBRA interface or an SNMP interface. In this way, to exchange the data the controller makes use of a known interface which is effective and widespread in telecommunications systems. This interface may be capable of being replaced in the controller or a number of interfaces may be available in the controller so that different interfaces for exchanging data are available to the controller. In this way, the controller can be inserted into existing communications systems in a simple and uncomplicated way. The controller also can make use of simple, existing components, for example databases, of the telecommunications network.

In a further advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the setting information is transmitted using a program interface between the controller and the control units. Existing program interfaces of the control units can, thus, be used easily by the controller, as a result of which the expenditure in order to install the controller is reduced because it is not necessary to adapt the existing control units. The program interfaces of the controller can be replaced. Furthermore, a number of program interfaces can be activated in the controller so that the controller can be individually adapted to the existing control units without a large degree of expenditure. Such program interfaces may be, for example, a Q3 interface or an interface based on man/machine language.